6/20/72

Dear Paul,

Somewhere in a large stack I have a letter from you only partly answered. Much accumulated during my trip. I have notes from it yet to type and a lot of tapes. But your letter of the 17 requires immediate response. In a way, I had prepared a partial response before in the form of an extra carbon of the insert in the epilogue to PM that I prepared in haste as soon as I got home and found a covering letter and that page waiting for me. I enclosed it. I just hadn't gotten to separating the carbon because I've been that busy. There have been other serious problems besides work, deaths in the family, etc.

When you read thexenclosed you'll understand, whether or not you agree, that I see more here than you, including motive other than you speculate. With your speculation I do agree, if we can agree that it is now but speculation. It does trouble me. I have long been expecting the second shoe to drop, but I haven't had time to think about it. I know more impends, and not from Red. I know that from that quarter also more impends, and I can understand your feeling that you have to respec confidence, largely because you are unaware of the evil to which he has devoted himself or its motive. He and I did have an agreement, and he has violated it, and I have threatend to sue him. If necessary, I will. He is uptight for reasons other than this, too. The whole thing was a very painful and difficult one for us, and our misjudgement of him was a serious one. Although Gary has been out of things for a while, if you can conceive that there is the remotest chance that I should know what he has told you (and I may already, depending on what it is), then I think you should consult with Gary, who can give you a dispassionate Red reading. I could but you'd not accept it as that. If I sent you copies of our earlier letters after his nuttiness (a kind designation for what he really did), then you should recall my concern for his mental state and what he had done could do to it. An oversimplification of Gary's view is that with his hangups Red is faced with the need to make the Establishment right. He has done some pretty bad things, Paul.

You ask that I give the copy to Jim. I will, but not until I have gotmen him to clean up some Ray work he is trying to dump on me. In fact, has. We had a specific understanding on a division of labor when I left on this last trip, an uncompensated Ray trip that can't do me any good. I did my part. I think the results are spectacular. Right now he is too busy with other things to take time to listen to the tapes. They actually wanted me to prepare the affidavits and get them signed! I have done more of the legal work on the Ray case than you can know, but an end must come. I can't have all this dumped on me. I think you should also understand that I distinguish between Jim and the committee, the original relationship I had with Bud that he didn't respect, although I could not have been more specific. I had a fondness, respect and trust for Jim. So, I have been keeping him, personally, informed of things he is not to communicate to Bud or Bob, who are capable of great craziness and rarely depart from it on the assassinations. Thus I am opposed to the appearance of almost anything in the newsletter, if it can be called that, because it goes mostly to worse nuts who are not capable of anything but misuse. Also, I see nothing to be gained. Further, I see much to be lost because without doubt it is watched and read. On the other hand, if there is anyone willing to undertake to carry this forward and has the emotional balance to do it, I am all for that.

Let me try and explain the relationship and distinction I make a bit more. There are some things that I take to Jim religiously for him to copy and keep. There are some subjects on which without deviation I make copies for him. By and large he has come to agree with me on the nuttiness of most of the others. He dressed Sprague down in a way I understand was incredible before the meeting of Bud's committee prior to the recent one. I think that is why he has been silent. I have a description from Gary, who was the only other one there. But why set the Srpagues off again for no real purpose? I wish you could come to see that our problems are different, and that the fewer of us doing any real work, the less communication there should be. Sylvia, unless she was dishonest, has just written me that she is so far out of it she declines my request that she appear on a syndicated show, TV, to mark the tenth anniversary. I was in a position to recommend, and I faced a choice between you and her (if she doesn't, I'd like you to consider it, even if it is all foreign to you). I had a special reason in recommending her. But if she says she is out of it, what about almost all the others? As substitutes, for your evaluation, she recommended Sauvage, who was never as much in it and therefore is even more out, and Wecht, who has yet to do anything except read what was given him to read. I can't

really figure it.

I ramble because I want to say more than I have time for. Let me return to your letter, and if you want we can discuss the other things later. I didn't take this Jackie page up with Jim because he didn't find enough time to go over what was urgent when I made a trip to town for it. First things first, and they are all but him crazy on this subject anyway. Including Bob. Which may have almost cost me a thumb. Let me give you this added reading: he tells me he'd like to come up and go over my stuff on the ramp. I say fine. He comes up, ignores the files, and wants to talk to me only about explosive bullets! Have you established the possibility of their use? I asked. No. Have you examined the evidence to seen if it permits consideration of their use? Also no. But it is an open question, as his particular kind of scientific training tells him. Was there any need to use explosive bullets? He didn't know. If he doesn't know the answer to this question with a range of 200 feet, what the hell does he know and what kind of science is he up lying?

Now, your copy was deliberately marked. I can't tell you why, but I can tell you that. I have laid it next to my original, and I'm telling you that both the top and the bottom are cropped or masked. The top includes the word "CONFIDENTIAL", scratched through as at the bottom, and the bottom includes the full declassification stamp with about 3/32" of blank space below it. The initialling is by MJ on 4/11/72.

What prompted them to do this, now may be your request or may be my leaning on Vawter, in which I demanded a review of my denied requests, or those areas of your speculation. We don't know. I've made repeated requests going back to the Spring of '66. I disagree with the feds every having and any "concern for the Kennedy sensibilities", not even when Bobby was AG. There is nothing to make me even give it serious consideration. Everything of which I know is contrary....Agree J may have been close to breaking down. ... I'm inclined to doubt that word-by-word comparison of his original testimony would be worth the time, unless we could get people who have no knowledge and can't do better things. They would most likely have deleted anything that was of consequence, but I don't think Goldberg would have done it without some effort to cover himself, as here, where he indicates only some and that deceptively. But you are right, it should be done, as so many other things should. The question always in my mind is what is the best way of spending the time. But it would be interesting if upon not Goldberg made this change, so that check could be a more promising one....I could ask Howard to write a letter and ask. Do you want me to? I don't think this should be done in person unless necessary. And I'd much rather keep anyone related to any nuts out of it...There is really nothing wrong with making grammatical changes... I did note that this has only confidential on it. Strange. I can't recall any other not Top Secret, which was even then illegal. Invocation of the investigatory files provision was frivolous and as a sample of frivolity is valuabel, especially since they did declassify. More important it that letter, of which I'd like a copy for sometime future use in court, but then only with your permission, in the invocation of the "details of a personal nature" and "no significant connection" jazz. It has the most significant meaning, I think. Judge for yourself when you see the enclosed.

There is something else wrong here. I measured the page you sent. It is 10 5/8". Mine is 11". The 3/8 inch doesn't account for the difference. So, I've laid them side by side. Then I overlaid. Yours, if it was made from the same original as mine, should include the confidential at the top. The page number, by the way, is 6815. With the first line of typing coinciding, yours is large, the difference in the entire page being the approximate height of the stamped word "DECLASSIFIED". The top on your copy does not quite touch the bottom of this word on mine. Yours was also copied too far to the left, leaving off the holes in the paper as well as part of the stamp. Now what I can't understand is that, with the list they are supposed to keep and from which this was also sent to me, why they didn't make all the copies they needed at one push of the button. Nor can I attribute any reason to their making any of this. I might speculate that this is not the original page of the original typescript, for they were all to have been stamped Top Secret and I know of no other exception....Gotta get to other work. Lattimer has something I haven't seen in Resident and Staff Physician. If you see a copy, I'd like to see it. He was to send me a reprint but hasn't...I repeat, I think we'd best be careful about doing anything that could make another dirty deal more likely and precipitate it or give what could be taken as justification, etc. Thanks and best,